

What is claimed is:

1. A dishwasher, comprising:

a washing chamber defined by opposite side walls, a bottom wall, a top wall, a back wall,
and a door;

5 a disk mounted on the top wall for rotation about a vertical axis and having a plurality of
vanes;

a water nozzle on one of the back wall, side walls, or top wall to direct a water jet
horizontally onto the vanes of the disk to rotate the disk and thereby redirect the
water radially for distribution in the washing chamber.

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2. The dishwasher of claim 1 further comprising a second disk with vanes mounted in
the top wall for rotation about a vertical axis and a second water nozzle to direct a second
water jet horizontally onto the vanes of the second disk to rotate the second disk and
thereby redirect the water radially for distribution in the washing chamber.

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3. The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the disk is adjacent the top wall, and the water
nozzle is adjacent the top wall.

4. An improved water distribution system for a dishwasher, comprising:

20 a rotatable disk in the dishwasher;

a water nozzle in the dishwasher;

the water nozzle adapted to direct a water jet toward the disk in a direction transverse to an
axis of rotation of the disk so as to impart rotation to the disk and thereby redirect
the water jet in a radial spray pattern in the dishwasher.

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5. The improved water distribution system of claim 4 further comprising at least a
second rotatable disk in the dishwasher, and at least a second nozzle in the dishwasher to
direct a second water jet at the second disk so as to impart rotation to the second disk and
thereby redirect the water jet to a radial spray pattern in the dishwasher.

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6. The improved water distribution system of claim 4 wherein the disk has a plurality of vanes upon which the water jet impacts.
7. The improved water distribution system of claim 4 wherein the disk has a generally vertical axis of rotation.
8. A method of distributing water in a dishwasher, comprising:
providing a water jet with linear kinetic energy;
transferring the linear kinetic energy into radial kinetic energy to distribute water in the dishwasher; and
the linear and radial kinetic energies being in a common plane.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the water jet is directed onto a rotatable disk.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the water jet is directed in a path substantially perpendicular to an axis of rotation of the disk.
11. The method of claim 8 wherein the linear kinetic energy is directed substantially horizontally.
12. A method of distributing water in a wash chamber, comprising:
directing a water jet in a linear path onto a disk in the chamber so as to rotate the disk about an axis,
redirecting the water jet in a radial direction from the disk; and
the linear path being substantially perpendicular to the axis of the rotation of disk.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the linear path is substantially horizontal and the disk axis is substantially vertical.